

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 02682 150859Z

20

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 H-02 AID-05 SR-02

ORM-01 OPR-02 A-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SCS-03

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O R 150833Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9898

BNFO RUKOSP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 4705

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2682

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF VN MY

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A) KL 2560 B) STATE 107160

1. VESSEL REPORTED IN REF A IDENTIFIED AS LCU PURCHASED FROM US MILITARY, VIETNAM AND DOCUMENTED BY AMEMBASSY SAIGON WITH CERTIFICATE OF AMERICAN OWNERSHIP. OWNER/OPERATOR IS A. KELLY SHELTON, U.S. CITIZEN WHO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT VESSEL UNDER USAID CHARTER AND WAS ENGAGED IN REFUGEE EVACUATION UNDER ORDERS USAID AND MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND.

2. VESSEL HAS THIRTEEN (13) VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD WHO ARE CONFINED BY MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES. SHELTON ONLY PERMITTED ASHORE AFTER WE RELAYED AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL GUARANTEE SHELTON WOULD RETURN TO VESSEL AND TAKE IT OUT OF MALAYSIA. AUTHORITIES OVERCAUTIOUS, BEING AFRAID HE WILL LEAVE REFUGEES TO BECOME MALAYSIAN PROBLEM. GROUP CONSIST OF TWO FAMILY UNITS AS FOLLOWS: ONE ADULT MALE, TWO ADULT FEMALES AND TEN CHILDREN. ACCORDING TO SHELTON ONE FAMILY WISHES TO GO TO FRANCE, THE OTHER MOST LIKELY WILL GO TO TAIWAN AS SPOUSE/ HUSBAND WHO ALSO ABOARD IS TAIWANESE.

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PAGE 02 KUALA 02682 150859Z

3. SHELTON PLANNED TO PROCEED TO SINGAPORE AND OFF-LOAD

REFUGEES. HE, HOWEVER, UNAWARE UNTIL NOW OF SINGAPORE GOVT POSITION AND RECENT ACTION CONCERNING REFUGEES THERE. AS VESSEL CANNOT KEEP REFUGEES ABOARD INDEFINITELY EMBASSY PROPOSES FOLLOWING SOLUTION: SEEK PERMISSION FOR REFUGEES TO LEAVE VESSEL EITHER MALAYSIA OR SINGAPORE (THERE NO TAIWAN AUTHORITIES HERE; SINGAPORE HAS TAIWAN TRADE MISSION), IN ORDER TO CONTACT FRENCH AND TAIWANESE AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR ENTRY INTO THESE COUNTRIES. THIS WILL REQUIRE EMBASSY GUARANTEE OF ULTIMATE USG RESPONSIBILITY PER REF B (REFUGEES ON U.S.-FLAG VESSELS) SHOULD ACCEPTANCE BY THESE COUNTRIES NOT BE FORTHCOMING. IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH THIS COURSE OF ACTION EMBASSY WILL REQUIRE 1) CONFIRMATION OF USG RESPONSIBILITY, AND 2) PAROLE AUTHORIZATION FOR ALL THIRTEEN (13). IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT PAROLE WILL BE UTILIZED AS LAST RESORT MEASURE SHOULD ALL ELSE FAIL.

4. REFUGEES IN POSSESSION SUFFICIENT FUNDS AND REQUIRE NO RPT NO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

5. REFUGEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NGUYEN KIM KHANH
TRUONG THI NGOC ANH
NGUYEN QUOC HUNG
NGUYEN THI XUAN DAO
NGUYEN QUOC DAO
NGUYEN THI XUAN PHUONG
NGUYEN THI XUAN LAN
HO-FONG
DIEP-TO-NU
HO-VI-BANG
HO-VI-CUONG
HO-VI-SAM
HO-VI-NGUYEN
HO-VI-HUNG.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA02682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-0940
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750550/aaaabssw.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KL 2560, 75 STATE 107160
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, VN, MY, VS, (SHELTON, A KELLY)
To: STATE SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006